

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 HELSIN 00300 120716Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----120822Z 020116 /13

R 120637Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0988

C O N F I D E N T I A L HESLINKI 0300

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: NGDS
TAGS: EAIR, FI, UR
SUBJECT: SOVIETS PRESSING FINNS BUY SOVIET PLANES

1. GUNNAR KORHONEN, PRESIDENT OF FINNAIR, IN A LUNCHEON CONVERSATION TODAY (FEB 11) TOLD ME SOME RATHER STARTLING FACTS. HE RECENTLY WAS A DINNER GUEST OF V.S. STEPANOV, THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN HELSINKI. AMBASSADOR STEPANOV IN A THREATENING WAY SAID THAT IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE THE VERY HIGHEST LEVEL OF THE SOVIET UNION (KOSYGIN) WAS COMING TO HELSINKI TO CULMINATE AN AGREEMENT ON THE LIVIISA ATOMIC PROJECT AND THE KOSTAMUS PROJECT. THE KOSTAMUS PROJECT ALONE IS ESTIMATED TO BE ON AND A QUARTER BILLION DOLLARS -- THE LARGEST PROJECT OF ITS TYPE EVER SCHEDULED IN FINLAND. THE AMBASSADOR SAID AT THAT TIME THERE WAS GOING TO BE SOME VERY STRAIGHT, HARD TALK REGARDING THE FUTURE ACQUISITION BY FINLAND OF SOVIET AIRCRAFT.

2. SOVIET PRESSURE PUTS AT ISSUE PROSPECTIVE 80 MILLION DOLLAR PURCHASE BY FINNAIR OF THREE NEW DOUGLAS 950'S, WHICH THE BANK OF FINLAND HAS JUST APPROVED. BECAUSE OF THE SENSITIVITY OF THE MATTER, THEY HOPE NO DISCUSSION OF THAT WILL BE MADE PUBLIC.
AUSTAD

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PAGE 02 HELSIN 00300 120716Z

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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